

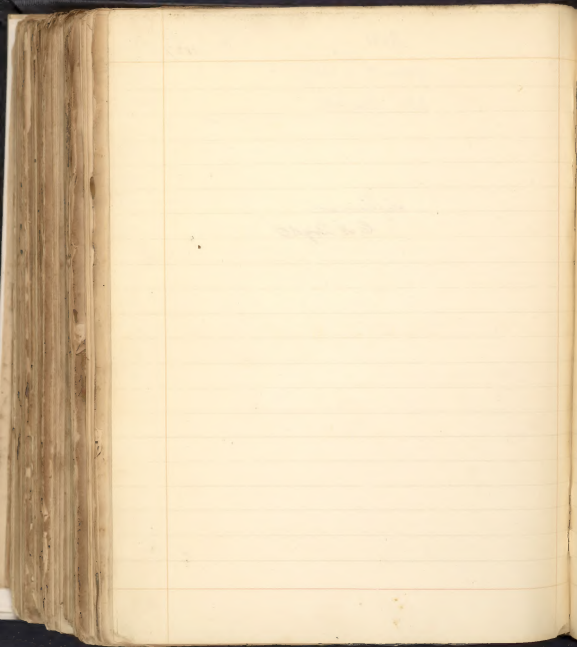
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Influenza  
C. H. Boyd



An inaugural dissertation

on

Influenza.

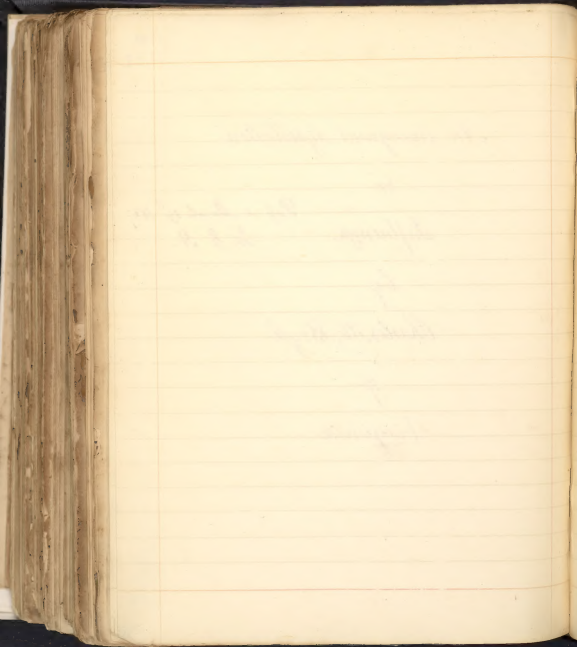
Read March 19<sup>th</sup> 1867  
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by

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of

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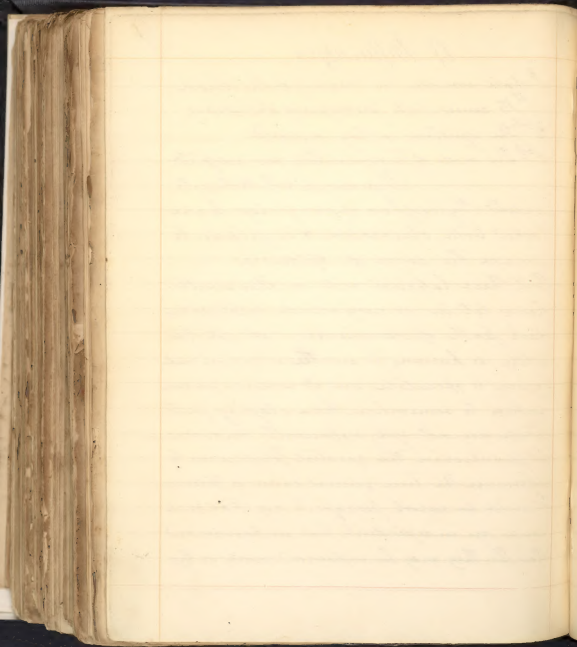


## Of Influenza

I shall consider in treating of this disease

- 1<sup>st</sup> Its causes both predisposing and exciting
- 2<sup>d</sup> The symptoms as they occurred
- 3<sup>d</sup> The mode of treatment, that was adopted

Physiologists & Pathologists, indeed Philosophers of every clasp have tasked both observation & conjecture to discover the cause of Epidemics. But their labours rich in other results, have let in no very steady light, on this dark path of our science. As yet too little is known, to entitle a Physic. in medicine to speculate and it remains for him rather to remember than classify facts, which are not yet, sufficiently numerous, to permit even the greatest Physicians to determine the true general causes of Epidemics. It will be safest, perhaps to say that such causes are independent, but unknown, and that tho. they may be influenced, more or less



by ordinary states and changes of atmospheres  
They are still different from those

To prove its independence  
in an epidemic influenza for instance,  
place persons for experiment in whatever  
situation you may think proper, and  
protect them, as far as possible, from all  
common causes of disease, and yet many  
will be seized, and some will die.

It is true, that those most exposed will  
suffer most, but exemption is rather the  
effect of peculiarity of constitution, or of the  
counteracting and more powerful agency  
of some other morbid cause. Tho' the  
cause may be such as will predispose to, but  
not excite the disease, yet it is frequently  
capable of forcing it on the system.

Commonly, however  
it lies dormant until roused by some chan-  
ges of system, produced by other means -

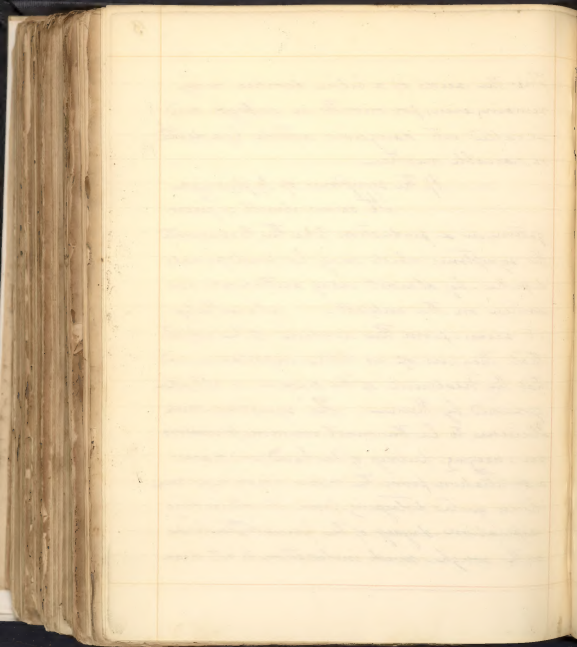




Thus the seeds of a bilious disorder may remain, even, for months in embryos and be called into dangerous action, by a delicate or, variable weather.

Of the symptoms of Influenza

It seems almost supererogatory, in a production like this, to enumerate the symptoms, which may be found, so well depicted - by almost every author, who has written on the subject - Nevertheless it seems - from the discussion of the subject, that they are of no little importance, and that the treatment of the disease, is altogether governed by them - The symptoms which I believe to be the most common, precursors, are sneezing, fullness of the head, and nose; a distillation from the nose - which may some-times quite distressing - from its obstructing respiration - dryness of the fauces & Trachea, with cough - much inclination to sit near



The pulse - no disposition to exercise - In these succeeded flushings of the face - an acceleration of pulse - with fulness and tension - at other times fulness & tension without its being increased in frequency - and in other cases, it was very much contracted & corded. In fact, we had every variety of pulse.

In all of the attacks, the tongue was covered with a white fur - except in bilious cases. - A general fulness of the face, Torpid bowels, & dry skin, were very common symptoms. - After these had continued for a short time, the disease came to a favourable crisis either by the skill of the physician, or the efforts of nature. The crisis was generally ushered in, by a mild expectoration, a gentle diarrhoea, or diarrhoea. But in a great number of cases, all the above enumerated symptoms were greatly aggravated, and we had to



cominal such inordinate increase, of fever  
 throbbing lancinating pains in the sides, & incast,  
 aggravated cough - headache &c, with much  
 delirium. Besides these, the greatest diffi-  
 culty of respiration was experienced amounting  
 almost in some cases to suffocation &  
 resembling very much, the pantings of a  
 fatigued dog. In many instances, and  
 these were the most desperate and fatal,  
 the disease came on with destruction, in  
 in a very short <sup>time</sup> with coldness of the extremi-  
 ties & surface, & great prostration of the system.  
 These were cases of congestion, in the head,  
 lungs, liver, spleen, or intestines, deceiving  
 the physician, & leading him to strong stim-  
 ulants, when in fact, he is called on, to  
 use warm external applications. warm  
 drinks, & occasionally, emetics, until reac-  
 tion was brought about. Then the use of  
 the lancet & active cathartics, was found



to be requisite. In one case. The pain of the hand and arm. was so severe - that the patient was continually crying out "my hand and arm pain me to my very heart". In another case The pain in the integuments of the cranium. which occupied not more than the space of two inches square. was so excruciating as to force the tormented patient to cry out, "insufferable - insufferable - thl do something for me; or I must die" - - together with these, a sore throat. was not at all uncommon. an examination of which. brought to view. an inflamed state of the tonsil glands. The ear sympathizing with which. produced some of the most vehement symptoms. - Indeed, so violently was the ear affected. in one case - as to produce no little, anxiety for the safety of the patient. the eyes were also frequently inflamed, so much so, in some cases as to produce





an increased secretion of tears, which were  
very troublesome & distressing —

The conjoined influence  
of these symptoms - for any length of time,  
or in fact, their existence, for a very short  
time, would bid defiance to all the skill  
of the most successful physicians -

Whenever these cases, as I said before, came  
to a favourable crisis, it was marked by a  
free & copious expectoration - by a universal  
but gentle diaphoresis - or by a mild and  
salutary diarrhoea - leaving behind only  
a state of debility - But whenever this hap-  
py crisis was not to be seen, a train of  
fatal symptoms - soon followed, such as  
cold & partial sweats about the head and  
breast, particularly the forehead, dilatations  
and contractions of the Alae. nasi, a uni-  
-versal tremor of the tongue, when projected  
from the mouth, a sunken & glassy eye;



a cadaverous physiognomy, a prostrated state of the arterial system - hiccup - both epistaxis with a cessation of their vascular action - relaxation of the sphincter muscles, with involuntary discharges, and death -

In some cases, the patients were cloven down by the violence of the disease, in, a peritonitis after the attack. Such a case came, under my own view - several others were communicated to me - - Even when death, did not take place, as soon, as mentioned - an unfortunate remnant of disease - predisposed the lungs, to severe & unmanageable congestions - and laid frequently the foundation for hydrothorax and consumption - -

#### Of the Treatment of Influenza -

That the disease assumed a grade of high action - is evident, from the foregoing symptoms. - An action which, in the commencement, called



for. The most apparent treatment, otherwise, the symptoms would become so firmly rooted, that it was with the greatest difficulty the chain of morbid action could be broken up -

In encountering an attack of this kind the physician must proceed with timidity & boldness - founded upon true principles, & guided by judgment and sound discretion, and assert the symptoms, indicating a lesion of the different organs, wherever they were found - and meet them, from whatever source, they might spring. In the incipient stages of a great majority of cases, the inflammation is urgently demanded - indicated, by the difficulty of respiration - and structure of the chest, that, the bronchial system was violently attacked, the physician in pleuritic cases & full habits - ought hardly ever to wait for the pulse alone, to point



out bleeding - This operation was to be performed when demanded by the urgency of the symptoms & distress of the patient, and repeated so long as required by these circumstances -

Post mortem examinations revealed to us, that the lungs were almost universally, in a state of congestion, and that when this highly congested state was suffered to remain for any length of time - their structure must necessarily be destroyed - Acting upon these principles, the use of the lancet, in this stage - could hardly fail to be of important utility - In those plain cases of high action induced by a full, open, and stone, but with increased frequency, associated either with general or local disease, the course to be pursued was obvious - The lancet, emetics, active cathartics - such as calomel, with Iodine or gamboge &c. were imperiously





called for - since in our southern climate the disease was almost always, of a bilious type, after the full operation of these, the milder were to be used, or the more gentle continued, according to the presence or absence of bilious symptoms. Until this active excitement, was somewhat reduced, strict attention to diet, and close confinement, were to be particularly observed. This treatment followed, by the occasional use of laxatives, for the purpose, of keeping the bowels gently open, and the administration of diaphoretics - such, as the Antimonial preparations - sweet - spiritus of tartar, with the use of warm diluent drinks - such as - Lemon Tea - Sage Tea - Apple water - Peppermint water - made &c. with a Dover's Powder at night - generally, completed, a cure. In milder cases, an emetic and cathartic



or Troj, with conpiments, and antihumials  
 aided by warm tea, were found to be supe-  
 rior. - But in those more alarming  
 cases of congestion, a different treatment,  
 was called for, - When the attack came  
 on with alternate chills & heat, - or a consta-  
 nt shivering, with cold extremities & surface,  
 a quick, frequent, and small pulse; severe  
 pain in the head, breast, or loins, with  
 a difficult & hurried respiration, denoting  
 congestion of these parts &c, our practice  
 was to give Tartar emetic & Calomel  
 combined, in the proportion of Two grains  
 of the former, to ten of the latter, adding  
 sometimes, gamboge, to make a powerful  
 impression on the system, for the purpose  
 of arousing its energy, diffusing actions  
 and determining to the surface, using,  
 at the same time warm drinks, sometimes,  
 a little stimulating - and external warmth,



and as soon as the action was diffused,  
 and the equilibrium more restored, which  
 was denoted, by a full and strong pulse;  
 with heat of skin - the lancet was  
 employed, more or less as the patients  
 seemed to require, and could bear it -  
 The prompt use, of these powerful  
 means, in the incipient stage, so as to re-  
 lieve the congested blood vessels, prevented  
 the vital organs, from being overwhelmed.  
 We have even, in such extreme cases  
 of oppressing, used the lancet, in robust  
 & plethoric habits - and administered a  
 strong cordial immediately afterwards,  
 and I have seen it act, like a charm -  
 When the lungs are the parts, which  
 suffer most, which is known by cough  
 and obscure and acute pain, in the sides,  
 and breast - difficult & hurried respiration -  
 dilatations & contractions of the alae nasi,

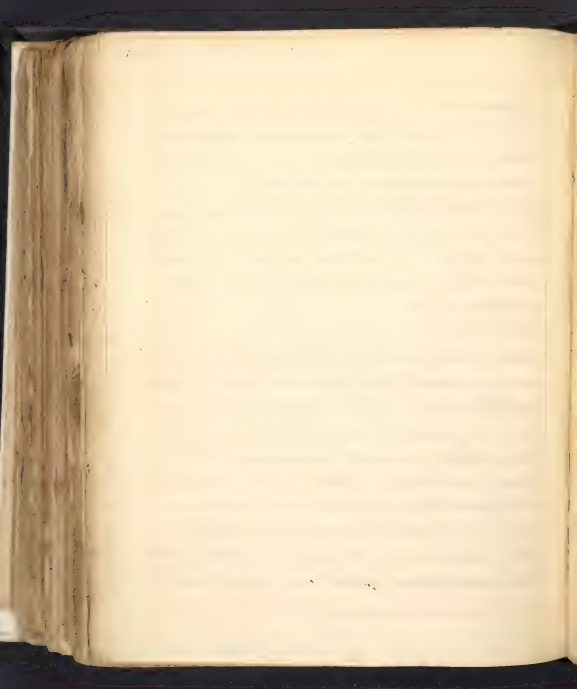


repeated emetics, with the judicious use of the lancet, followed by cupping, leeching and blistering, was the practice, which seemed most beneficial. - I have known & seen patients, blistered three <sup>four</sup> times around the chest, and from the neck, down to the umbilical region - - In all pulmonary affections, after depleting; expectorants, demulcents, antimonials &c. were used - In cerebral affections, shaving the head and applying cold water - blisters to the scalp, or cups to the temples, leeches, blisters to the nape of the neck, &c. was a practice well rewarded - - When the local distress, of some vital organ, continued, after the high action, had been reduced, these local means, were pursued in - together with gentle aperients, diaphoretics and delivents - until these symptoms were relieved. - And when there was a typhoid





disposition, as new sometimes the case. The Volatile Salts & Camphor, with Antimony, were used - as ten grains of the former every hour or two & from five to ten of the latter, every two hours. in the form of Lulep - using in conjunction mine whey - At any stage of the disease when there was coldness of the surface, and the temperature, could not be restored by these stimuli; hot Toddy, and warm applications externally, with the use of Spirits of Turpentine, were brought into their aid - The Turpentine was given in doses of ten or fifteen drops every thirty minutes, increasing it to twenty or thirty. Also it was rubbed hot, upon the extremities. It was also given in injections, conjoined, with lark, every two hours - This practice has succeeded when every other failed. - I consider the



Turpentine to be one of the most ~~powerful~~  
means to warm the surface here. —  
This is the practice of a few southern  
physicians, in congestive bilious fever —  
as well as the congestive epidemic, and  
typhoid fever. Sometimes these were  
congestions of the bowels & liver, with disten-  
-  
sion, constipation, tumefaction & pain which  
called for calomel, Sallap, gamboge, croton  
oil, Chloridium &c, followed by milder re-  
medies, such as castor oil - Senna &c &c,  
until the bowels were evacuated, using  
at the same time injections of senna  
with Sallap or salts dissolved in warm  
water - or the common injection —  
After the full action of these, if there  
was still pain and tumefaction in the abdo-  
men, injections of simple warm water  
were found, mostly beneficial, given every  
hour or two. I do believe, however



simple, they may seem to us, that they are one of the most powerful means to cooperate with blister, emmenagogue, demulcent, and expectorant, to determine to the surface -

I need not speak of those who have been cured - as hydrothorax occurred - from late treatment, or neglect, near the results of this epidemic. They require a separate consideration. But I will observe that the epidemic, was, in some cases, and that not a few, so insidiously, transpired upon the patient, as seemed hardly to require much attention, so that the subject were one day pretty well, the next a richer, with clean tongue, and good appetite. But the disease gradually gained ground, without exciting much alarm, until the breathing became hurried & convulsive, the cough



frequent & dry, frequent and small pulse  
with, a considerable degree of tension, ob-  
-scure pain, or uneasiness in the breast, and  
increased difficulty of breathing, on laying  
down, denoting dropsical effusions, and  
chronic inflammation of the lungs -

These lingering cases, still gradually gain-  
ing ground upon the sufferers, for three  
four or five months, & finally destroying  
them, in despite of every remedial effort -  
I am fully of the opinion, that if they had  
been attacked early, with the lancet, repeated  
emetics, mild cathartics, and persevering  
abstinence a favourable solution would  
have been very often the result -

The physicians of my acquaintance, & drawn  
to this plan - that the subjects of the disease,  
thought, remedies unnecessary, by reason of  
a midday - Post mortem examinations  
developed the nature of the disease, and the





course to be pursued. But to return to the use of the lancet - It must be judiciously used - having an eye, to the plethora & habits of the patients - If they are athletic & hard labourers, and in the habit, of submitting to that evacuation &c they bear it well in the incipient attacks, although, previous to this, they complained, of the greatest debility, and were weighed down with the disease -

This course of depletions lessened the oppression and the patients gained their strength - I might compare it to a heavy burthen, pressing a man to the ground, by lessening the weight he will gradually rise.

